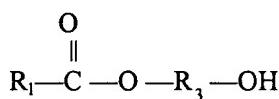
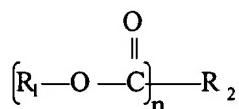
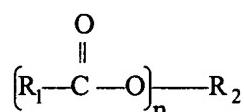
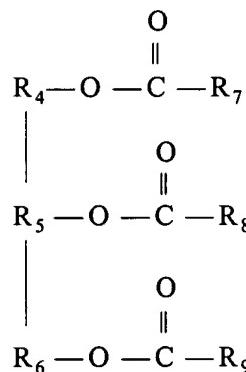


Appendix A: Marked-up Copy Showing Changes to the Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A gel composition, comprising:
 an ester compound; and
 a polymer compound having at least one rigid block selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, and phenolics and one elastic block selected from the group consisting of ethylene/butadiene copolymers, polyisoprene, polybutadiene, ethylene/propylene copolymers, ethylene-propylene/diene copolymers, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of triblock copolymers, star polymers, radial polymers, multi-block copolymers, and combinations thereof,
 wherein the gel composition is substantially free of mineral oils,
 wherein the ester is represented by one of the following formulas:



or



wherein n=1, 2, 3, and 4, and

R₁ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl; R₂ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, substituted phenyl, alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, and substituted phenylene, and R₃ includes alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and

wherein R₄, R₅, and R₆ individually include alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and R₇, R₈ and R₉ individually include hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl.

20. (Amended) A gel composition, comprising:

a compound selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ethers, and combinations thereof; and

a polymer compound selected from the group consisting of diblock copolymers, triblock copolymers, star polymers, radial polymers, multi-block copolymers, and combinations thereof,

wherein the polymer compound has at least one rigid block selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, and phenolics and one elastic block selected from the group consisting of ethylene/butadiene copolymers, polyisoprene, polybutadiene, ethylene/propylene copolymers, ethylene-propylene/diene copolymers.

24. A gel composition, comprising:

a compound selected from the group consisting of esters, alcohols, ethers, naturally occurring fats and oils, and combinations thereof; and

~~a polymer compound selected from the group consisting of alkyl galactomannan, polybutadiene, and combinations thereof.~~

25. (Amended) A method of making a gel composition, comprising:

mixing an ester compound with a polymer compound having at least one rigid block selected

from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, and phenolics and one elastic block selected from the group consisting of ethylene/butadiene copolymers, polyisoprene, polybutadiene, ethylene/propylene copolymers, ethylene-propylene/diene copolymers, wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of triblock copolymers, star polymers, radial polymers, multi-block copolymers, and combinations thereof,

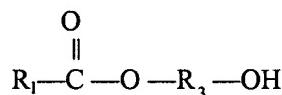
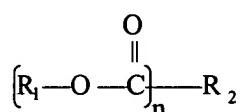
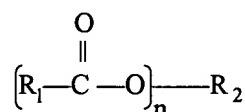
heating the mixture;

agitating the mixture until the mixture becomes homogeneous; and

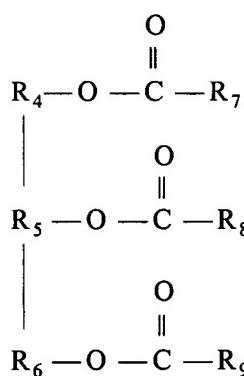
cooling the mixture,

wherein the gel composition is substantially free of mineral oils,

wherein the ester is represented by one of the following formulas:



or



wherein n=1, 2, 3, and 4, and

R₁ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl; R₂ includes hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, substituted phenyl, alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, and substituted phenylene, and R₃ includes alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and

wherein R₄, R₅, and R₆ individually include alkylene, phenylene, substituted alkylene, or substituted phenylene, and R₇, R₈ and R₉ individually include hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, phenyl, methoxyphenyl, alkylphenyl, substituted alkyl, and substituted phenyl.

26. (Amended) A method of making a gel composition, comprising:

mixing an alcohol, an ether, and combinations thereof with a polymer compound selected from the group consisting of diblock copolymers, triblock copolymers, star polymers, radial polymers, multi-block copolymers, and combinations thereof, wherein the polymer compound has at least one rigid block selected from the group consisting of polystyrene, polyethylene, polyvinylchloride, and phenolics and one elastic block selected from the group consisting of ethylene/butadiene copolymers, polyisoprene, polybutadiene, ethylene/propylene copolymers, ethylene-propylene/diene copolymers;

heating the mixture;

agitating the mixture until the mixture becomes homogeneous; and

cooling the mixture.

27. (Amended) A method of making a gel composition, comprising:

mixing an ester, an alcohol, an ether or a naturally occurring fat or oil with ~~alkyl galactomannan or polybutadiene,~~

heating the mixture;

agitating the mixture until the mixture becomes homogeneous; and

cooling the mixture.